

The Daily Courant.

Saturday, December 7. 1717.

Bononia, October 24.

THE Earl of Peterborow's Friends have publish'd here, in Italian, a Manifesto, by way of Letter, wherein they fully clear his Lordship from the foul Accusation laid on his Charge: The Translation of which curious Piece, is as follows.

Sir, Since you seem desirous to know the Motives which induc'd the Lord Cardinal Orsini to make such a Step, as securing the Person of the illustrious Earl of Peterborow, I do my self the Honour of gratifying your Curiosity, by acquainting you, not only with the Reasons for which his Eminence thought the taking such a Step incumbent upon him, but also with the Earl's Justification, with such as are best acquainted with Matters of Fact.

Know therefore, that there was a most evident Reason for this Arrest, which, on the 14th past, was executed by two Irish Officers, of the Court of the Chevalier de St. George; assisted by many armed Men, whom the Government furnish'd them with, upon their solemn Declaration, that they had Orders for their so doing from their Prince, who from certain Advices receiv'd from France and England, had a Suspicion, that the Earl was lately return'd into Italy with all Design against his Person.

That they allu'd to support that Suspicion, was 1. That the said Lord in his late return to Italy, had avoided the common Road, passing thro' the Mountains in the Territories of Genoa and Parma, with several armed Men.

2. That he had receiv'd from his Majesty King George, uncommon Marks of Confidence and Favour.

3. That he had receiv'd from the Duke of Marlborough, his late Departure from London to Italy; and that the said Lord, notwithstanding the Coldness between him and the Duke of Marlborough, liv'd at that time in great Intimacy and Friendship with that General.

4. And lastly, That the Queen's Mother had written from France, for the securing of the said Earl.

Before we shew the Insufficiency of these Reasons, it is not amiss to peruse, that some of my Lord's Domesticks, who were imprison'd on that Occasion, and others who were secur'd to his House, after the most strict Examination, reveal'd nothing that could give the least Air of Probability to the Accusation; nor was any thing found in his Lordship's Papers that could countenance the Suspicion, altho' the said Papers were seiz'd in a Surprise, and on the spot, together with his Person.

Moreover, it is certain, that upon the most diligent Enquiry, that have been made in the Ecclesiastical States, particularly here in Bononia and in Urbino, there has not been found any Accomplices in the supposed Conspiracy of the said Earl, who being alone, and in a foreign Country, tis evident he could not have put the same in Execution, unless he were assisted by the Natives, especially against a Person so well guarded as the Chevalier de St. George.

And my Lord, who throughout his whole Life, has been known to be a Person of a most generous Spirit, incomparable Politeness, and unfeigned Honour: Virtues and Qualities which have borne in all the Course of his Life, and Heroick Actions, and which leave no Manner of Foundation for the Chymical Enterprize laid to his Charge.

This being premis'd, you must know, in the first Place, that in his Journey to Italy, the Lordship thought fit to avoid the Imperial Dominions, by Reason of some Remonstrances and Complaints, which, he was inform'd, had been made against him in England, by the Austrian Ministers, about his late Conduct and Management; and therefore it was Prudence, in him to be upon upon his Guard; and as for that Purpose,

he pass'd thro' difficult and dangerous Mountains, he took for his safety only three armed Men, viz. the Postmaster of Salvi, with two of his Servants, declaring wherever he came both his Name and Quality, that he might be entertain'd in private Houses.

2. As for the Money which his Lordship had remitted to Italy, the same could not be given the least Umbrage, since it is only for his ordinary subsistence, his Remittances amounting to no more than 600 Pistoles, and his Lordship having left his ready Money in France.

As for the Gratitude and Favour shewn by King George to my Lord Peterborow, when he was last in England, it is to be observed, that in the present Juncture, all Persons of Quality and Distinction are treated with great Civility and Tenderness, altho' they be of the Number, or of the Party of those who have left the Court, only by lying down their Employments.

As for the late remarkable Correspondence between the Duke of Marlborough, and the Earl of Peterborow, after so long Coldness, the same may be easily accounted for; The Marquis of Hunting, at present Duke of Gordon one of the first Persons in Scotland, one of the most illustrious Families in Europe, and a Roman Catholic who had taken up Arms in Favour of the Chevalier de St. George, is married to the Earl of Peterborow's Daughter, by whom he has many Children. King George, at the Request of the Duke of Marlborough, who went in Person to acquaint my Lord Peterborow with that Piece of Favour, not only gave the Duke of Gordon his Life, but likewise restored him to his Estate. After so generous an Action, who can think it strange, that the Earl, out of Gratitude, should likewise his private Remembrance to the Preservation of the Life of his Son in Law.

If at any time the Queen's Mother had any Designs from any Apprehensions or ill Designs from my Lord Peterborow against the Prince her Son, it must certainly be at this Juncture; since my Lord, at his Departure from England, took along with him all his Family, and his two only Grandsons, to settle them, as he has done at Padua, in a Catholic Country, and as one may say, under the Eyes and Power of the said Queen: Can any Man of common Sense think that my Lord Peterborow could undertake any thing against the Chevalier's Life, after having left two such dear Rivals in his Mother's Hands?

Equally frivolous and chimerical are the Pretences on which they grounded the Suspicion that have induc'd the Court of Urbino to sequester his Lordship's Person, and confine him in Fort Urbino, viz. His having sent a considerable Remittance to Venice: For if his Lordship had any ill Design in his Thoughts, he knew very well he could be safe at home, where but in England, and there he would have kept his Money and Estate. Therefore his Lordship having freely sold a considerable Part of his Estate, he has very well have remitted part of that Money to Venice, without giving any Suspicion; for if he had been charg'd with such a villainous Commission, having the Favour and Countenance of King George, he should not have had Occasion to sell his own Estate, as he has done, and for which he has already receiv'd above 5000 Pistoles.

To confirm the Grounds and evident Fallacy of that charge, I shew, undoubtedly suggested, either by some private Enemy of my Lord, or of such as are against the Interest of the Chevalier de St. George, who by wicked Arts and sinister Cabals, would cause Trouble and Divisions: To confirm, I say, the said Fallacy, it will be sufficient to consider, how odd and strange it would be for the same Person, at the same time, to give Umbrage and Jealousy to two Interests diametrically opposite. 'Tis not long since my Lord was divested of all his Employments in England, with some Marks of Disgrace, and that upon Occasion of his having spoken in France disingenuously of King George, and with Partiality of the Prince his Rival. Now, by what a strange Metamorphosis, and contrary to all Probability, can it be pretended, that the same Lord

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